

- 3 -

Ser. No. 09/996,629**IN THE CLAIMS**

1-20. (withdrawn)

21. (original) A method of automated treatment of a plurality of biological or chemical samples on solid supports, the method comprising:

placing a sample and solid support in a sample well within a sample/collection container comprising a plurality of sample wells;

loading the sample/collection container onto a centrifuge rotor;

before or after loading the sample/collection container onto the centrifuge rotor, dispensing a solution into each well of the plurality of wells;

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a first speed, wherein the first speed is selected to minimize creep between the sample wells; and

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a second speed higher than the first speed to concentrate a solution containing the sample in the bottom of a collection well, wherein the second speed is selected to minimize bumping.

22. (original)

The method of claim 21, wherein the second speed is further selected to transfer the solution containing the sample through a drain into a separate collection well.

23. (new) A method of automated treatment of a plurality of biological or chemical samples on solid supports, the method comprising:

placing a sample and solid support in a sample well within a sample/collection container comprising a plurality of sample wells;

loading the sample/collection container onto a centrifuge rotor;

before or after loading the sample/collection container onto the centrifuge rotor, dispensing a solution into each well of the plurality of wells;

H:\Colleen\6444-Discovery Partners\PA05D.AMDYNEEP03.111.frm

- 4 -

Ser. No. 09/996,629

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a first speed, wherein the first speed is selected to minimize creep between the sample wells; and

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a second speed higher than the first speed to force the sample from the bottom of the sample well to flow up and out of the sample well, across a bridge functionally connected to a drain tube which is functionally connected to a collection well in a collection container wherein the sample from each sample well is drained into the corresponding collection well in the collection container.

H:\Colleen\6444-Discovery Partners\PA05D.AMDYNEEP03.111.frm